

REMARKS

Claims 1-32 are presently pending and submitted herein for consideration by the Examiner.

Applicant herein amends claims 1, 21, 28, 29, 31 and 32. No issue of new matter is raised by these amendments. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests entry of this Amendment.

Applicant respectfully submits that given these amendments, none of the cited grounds for rejection apply to the pending claims, as amended. Claims 1, 21, 28, 29, 31 and 32 are the independent claims. Favorable reconsideration is requested.

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1, 8-15, 19-24 and 28-32 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 1, 937,511 to Crane ("*Crane*"). As well, the Examiner objected to claims 2- 7, 16-18, and 25-27 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but stated they would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicant would like to thank the Examiner for this latter indication. However, in light of the amendments made herein to the independent claims, Applicant submits that all pending claims are now in condition for allowance.

Currently amended independent claim 1 recites a shock and vibration-absorbing system comprising a first plate assembly attachable to a first structure, a second plate assembly attachable to a second structure, and a plurality of cavernous members of an elastic material. It is provided that the first plate assembly and the second plate assembly together form at least one cavity having an initial volume in which the plurality of cavernous members are arranged, and after attachment of the first plate assembly to the first structure and the second plate assembly to the second structure, shock and vibration passing between the first structure and the second structure cause the first plate assembly and the second plate assembly to move relative to each other to reduce the initial volume of the at least one cavity so as to compress the plurality of

cavernous members. It is further provided that compressing the plurality of cavernous members exerts pressure against the first plate assembly and the second plate assembly so as to absorb the shock and vibration. The system operates to absorb shocks and vibrations which cause the first plate assembly and the second plate assembly to move either closer together or farther apart from each other. The same plurality of cavernous members are compressed whether the first plate assembly and the second plate assembly move either closer together or farther apart from each other .

A notable feature of the system recited in claim 1 is the fact that the *same* plurality of cavernous members are compressed whether the first plate assembly and the second plate assembly move either closer together (compressive pushes) or farther apart (expansive pulls) from each other .

As a result, unlike prior art systems and devices such as (i) *Hains* (previously cited by the Examiner and distinguished by Applicants) --which only absorbed shocks coming from one direction, i.e., compressive pushes, or (ii) *Crane* – which compresses different objects or sets of objects in response to expansive pulls as opposed to compressive pushes, the system of claim 1 can provide equal shock absorption – precisely because the identical cavernous members are compressed in either case – to both pushes and pulls (which are labeled as “inward” and “outward” shocks, respectively, in the example system of Fig. 6).

Crane is directed to a shock absorber for vehicles. Obvious from its design (see Fig. 1) is the fact that the anticipated shocks are those that would cause the first plate assembly and the second plate assembly to move *towards* one another (i.e., compressive pushes), as the cavernous members *under* the piston 14 are much greater in number and in the volume they occupy than are the cavernous members provided *above* the piston 14 (identified as the second plate assembly by the Examiner). While it is true that a pull upwards could be absorbed by the different cavernous members provided above the piston 14, the power to absorb such an expansive pulling

upward shock in this arrangement is much less than the power which the device has to absorb a pushing downward shock, which would be absorbed by the cavernous members provided below the piston 14. The system of claim 1, an example of which is depicted in Fig. 6, uses the *same* cavernous members to absorb either pushing shocks (where the first and second plate assemblies move towards each other) or pulling shocks (where the first and second plate assemblies move away from each other), thus affording equal shock absorption capability to both types of shocks, as is required, for example, in seagoing contexts.

Thus *Crane* neither teaches nor suggests a shock and vibration absorbing system such as is recited in claim 1, as amended, which is arranged so as to absorb shocks and vibrations which cause the first plate assembly and the second plate assembly to move either closer together or farther apart from each other, and wherein the same plurality of cavernous members are compressed whether the first plate assembly and the second plate assembly move either closer together or farther apart from each other. Therefore, Applicant submits that claim 1, as amended, is patentably distinguishable over *Crane*.

For similar reasons, each of independent claims 21, 28, 29, 31 and 32 are also believed to be patentably distinguishable over *Crane*. Claim 21 is a related method claim, claims 28 and 29 are variant related system claims, and claims 31 and 32 are related method of attenuation claims, respectively, to claim 1. Therefore, for the same reasons as discussed above in connection with currently amended claim 1, independent claims 21, 28, 29, 31, and 32 are submitted as being patentably distinguishable over *Crane* as well.

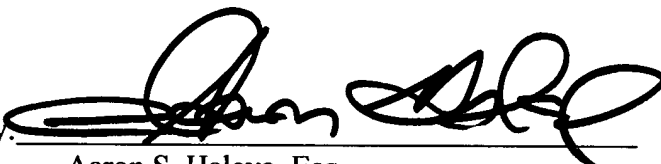
The remaining claims in the application are dependent from either claims 1, 21, 28, or 29, and thus are patentable over the references of record, since they further define and limit the invention of independent claims 1, 21, 28, and 29.

In light of the above amendments and arguments, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of each of the Examiner's rejections and objections contained in the Office Action. If the Examiner feels that there are any issues requiring further resolution, Applicant would welcome a telephonic conference with their undersigned attorneys to attempt to quickly resolve them. Applicant notes that the claimed system and methods are patentably distinguishable over all of the prior art heretofore cited, and any remaining issues should be easily resolvable.

No additional fees are believed due herewith. If any fees are due, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees as deemed necessary for the entry of this Amendment to Deposit Account No. 50-0540.

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Respectfully submitted,

By. 

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